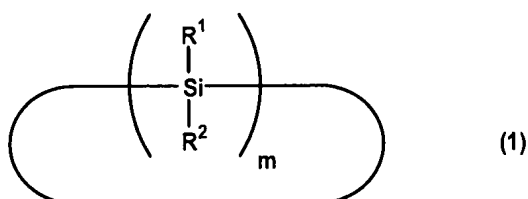


IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element comprising at least a top surface layer containing a polysilane, wherein the polysilane comprises a cyclic polysilane represented by the following formula (1):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different from each other and each represents a ~~hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkyloxy group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aryl group, an aryloxy group, or an aralkyl group, an aralkyloxy group, or a silyl group;~~ at least one hydrogen atom of the alkyl group, the alkoxy group, the alkenyl group, the cycloalkyl group, the cycloalkyloxy group, the cycloalkenyl group, the aryl group, the aryloxy group, or the aralkyl group, the aralkyloxy group, or the silyl group may have a substituent may be substituted with an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group;

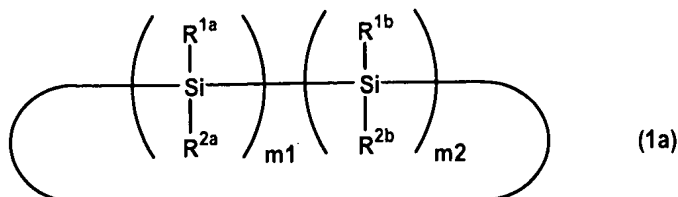
"m" denotes an integer of not less than 4; and

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may vary depending on the coefficient "m", respectively.

2. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein, in the formula (1), at least one of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> represents an aryl group, and "m" is an integer of 4 to 10.

3. (*Original*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein, in the formula (1), R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each represents a phenyl group, and "m" is an integer of 4 to 8.

4. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic polysilane is represented by the following formula (1a):



wherein R<sup>1a</sup> and R<sup>2a</sup> each represents an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with an alkyl group;

R<sup>1b</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> are the same or different from each other and each represents an alkyl group which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with a C<sub>5-8</sub>cycloalkyl group or a C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl group, a cycloalkyl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with a linear or branched C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group, a C<sub>5-8</sub>cycloalkyl group or a C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl group, or an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with an alkyl group;

provided that both R<sup>1b</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> are not coincidentally an aryl group in which ~~may have a substituent~~ at least one hydrogen atom thereof may be substituted with an alkyl group;

m1 denotes an integer of not less than 1;

m2 denotes 0 or an integer of not less than 1; and

m1+m2 denotes an integer of not less than 4.

5. (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein R<sup>1a</sup> and R<sup>2a</sup> each represents a C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl group;

a combination of R<sup>1b</sup> and R<sup>2b</sup> is (1) a combination of a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group and a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group, (2) a combination of a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group and a C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl group, (3) a combination of a C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl group and a C<sub>5-8</sub>cycloalkyl group, or (4) a combination of a C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl group and a C<sub>5-8</sub>cycloalkyl group.

6. (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein m1 is an integer of 1 to 10, m2 is an integer of 0 to 10, and m1+m2 is 4 to 12.

7. (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 4, wherein m1 is an integer of 1 to 8, m2 is an integer of 0 to 8, and m1+m2 is 4 to 10.

8.       (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the polysilane is a polysilane mixture containing a cyclic polysilane.

9.       (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, which comprises at least both of an electroconductive support and a photosensitive layer, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises at least the following components:

- a charge-generating agent[[,]];
- a charge-transporting agent[[,]]; and
- a binder resin.

10.      (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 9, wherein the photosensitive layer comprises a charge-generating layer, and a charge-transporting layer formed on the charge-generating layer.

11.      (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 9, wherein a surface protection layer containing the polysilane is formed on the photosensitive layer.

12.      (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the content of the cyclic polysilane is 0.01 to 10% by weight relative to the whole components of the top surface layer.

13.      (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 1, wherein the content of the cyclic polysilane is 0.01 to 5% by weight relative to the whole components of the top surface layer.

14.      (Original) An electrophotographic photosensitive element according to claim 8, wherein the top surface layer comprises an outer surface layer of the photosensitive layer or a surface protection layer of the photosensitive layer, and the proportion of a cyclic homo- or copolysilane having at least a diarylsilane unit is 0.01 to 3% by weight relative to whole components of the top surface layer.

15.     (*Original*) A method for producing an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1, which comprises forming at least a photosensitive layer on an electroconductive support to obtain the electrophotographic photosensitive element, wherein a cyclic polysilane is incorporated into at least a top surface of the electrophotographic photosensitive element.

16.     (*Currently Amended*) An electrophotographic photosensitive element composition, which comprises a component for an outer surface layer of a photosensitive layer or a component for a surface protection layer of a photosensitive layer, and a cyclic polysilane recited in claim 1.

17.     (*Original*) A composition according to claim 16, which comprises a binder, a cyclic polysilane, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of a charge-generating agent and a charge-transporting agent.

18.     (*Original*) A composition according to claim 17, wherein the binder comprises a polycarbonate-series resin.

19.     (*Original*) An electrophotographic cartridge, which is provided with an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1.

20.     (*Original*) An electrophotographic apparatus, which is provided with an electrophotographic photosensitive element recited in claim 1.